



## Young Sports Writers Are Invited To Participate In The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest.

January 26, 2009

The Sports Museum is now accepting entries for *The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest*. Students in grades 4-12 are encouraged to apply and celebrate another great year in Boston sports.

The contest (the fifth annual) is named in honor of the long-time *Boston Globe* sports columnist. It is designed to encourage the development of language and writing skills while incorporating the topic of sports and such concepts as teamwork, responsibility, fairness, courage and determination. Students enter the contest by submitting an essay on one of several topics. Essays will be judged on topic development, organization, style and mechanics. Editors and writers from the *Boston Globe* will determine the winners.

The Sports Museum is asking principals and school administrators to let their teachers and students know about *The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest*. Applications and guidelines can also be downloaded off The Sports Museum's website, [www.sportsmuseum.org](http://www.sportsmuseum.org). The deadline for submission is March 6, 2009. The winners will be announced via The Sports Museum's website on March 17.

1st place winners will take part in an award ceremony at The Sports Museum within the TD Banknorth Garden and receive a \$100 savings bond.

If you have any questions about *The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest*, please call Michelle Gormley at (617) 624-1233.

The past year has brought many memorable examples of determination, teamwork, courage, fairness and responsibility for students to write about. We look forward to reading this year's essays.





# The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest

## Contest Guidelines

### Essay Topics

Students can create a fiction or non-fiction essay on one of the following three topics:

#### 1. Stand Strong

Write a fiction or non-fiction essay about an individual athlete or a team, famous or unsung, who has demonstrated one or more of the following:

- **Determination** – Work hard, stay positive, and never give up
- **Courage** – Do the right thing despite fear or obstacles
- **Teamwork** – Respect, value, and support your teammates
- **Fairness** – Practice and promote good sportsmanship and honesty
- **Responsibility** – Follow through on your promises and commitments

#### 2. Good Sports/Bad Sports

Write a fiction or non-fiction essay about an individual or a team who has displayed exceptionally good or exceptionally poor sportsmanship. Discuss how that individual's attitude has affected the people around him or her.

#### 3. Character Counts

Former Boston Bruin Willie O'Ree is known as "The Jackie Robinson of Hockey" because he was the first black player in the NHL. Not only did he endure racial prejudice in many cities that he visited, he also suffered an injury that left him blind in his right eye. Despite all this, he achieved his dream of playing professional hockey. When Willie O'Ree speaks to kids, he likes to tell them, "If you think you can then you can. If you think you cannot, then you're right." What does he mean by this and how does his life experience exemplify this message? Focus on one or more of the following character traits: **Teamwork, Responsibility, Fairness, Determination and Courage.**

### Judging Criteria

Students will be judged on how they organize and express their ideas and how well they address the topic. Students will also be judged on creativity, writing style, grammar and spelling. Students may use primary and secondary sources in their essay. Please include a bibliography and documentation if needed.

### Maximum Length of Essays

Grades 4-5	300 Words	Grades 9-10	600 Words
Grades 6-8	500 Words	Grades 11-12	700 Words

All entries must be postmarked on or before March 6, 2009. Winning essays will be featured in the Will McDonough Exhibit in The Sports Museum, located within the TD Banknorth Garden. Contest winners will receive a \$100 savings bond, and along with their families and teachers, be invited to participate in the award ceremony at The Sports Museum that includes attending a game after the ceremony (date to be determined). Winners will be announced via the The Sports Museum's web site ([www.sportsmuseum.org](http://www.sportsmuseum.org)) on March 17th.



## The 2009 Will McDonough Writing Contest

Presented by



### Entry Form

Each Entrant must attach this form to his/her essay. Entries with incomplete forms will not be accepted. Entries must be mailed or faxed by March 6, 2009. The decisions of the judges are final. Submitted essays become the property of The Sports Museum.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Essay: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent/Caregiver Release

I/We understand the The Sports Museum may use the essay, in its original or adapted form, for publicity or commercially distributed publications for no additional compensation and may use the entrant's name and/or likeness. We hereby grant such uses.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent of Caregiver

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please submit entries to the following address: Attn: Michelle Gormley, The Sports Museum  
Will McDonough Writing Contest  
100 Legends Way  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 624-1238 FAX